


REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 1, 2004. Claims 1-18 remain pending in this application. Claims 1 and 10 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 3, 9, and 16-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have so amended the claims by adding the limitation of Claim 3 into Claims 1 and 10. Applicants respectfully believe the claims in condition for allowance at this time as the amendments to Claims 1 and 10 render the Office Action's § 102(e) rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached by telephone at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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